

REMARKS

This is in response to the office action mailed March 29, 2006.

Claims 1-8, 11-15 and 19-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hakala US Pub. No. 2001/0013521. Note that this publication issued as Patent No. 6,539,619.

All of the claims in this application include the feature of the regulating means. Note that the regulating means is configured on the releasable cartridge. Further, the distance between the guide rails is varied in response to the regulating means on the cartridge. In other words, insertion of the cartridge automatically sets the distance between the guide rails for the appropriate size paper clip.


This feature and structure cannot be found in the cited Hakala patent. The Examiner cites reference numeral 280 in Figure 16 of the cited patent as showing "means for varying the distance between the guide rails in response to the regulating means on the cartridge". However Figure 16 in the cited patent does not actually disclose this feature. In fact, the reference numeral 280 refers to the "springs". The regulating means in the presently claimed invention, when read in the context of the description and claims, are absent from the cited Hakala reference.

Favorable reconsideration of the claims is therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (818)710-2788.

Please acknowledge receipt hereof by stamping and returning

the enclosed return postcard.


Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 29, 2006.



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